

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 /087 W

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R 140938Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9768

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0344

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, IZ, UK, IR

SUBJ: IRAN FINALLY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE IN CARING FOR KURDISH
REFUGEES

REF: (A) LONDON 205 (NOTAL); (B) BAGHDAD 0910 (NOTAL); (C)
KHORRAMSHAHR A-14, DEC. 22, 1974 (NOTAL); (D) TEHRAN 7512
(NOTAL); (E) TABRIZ 25 (NOTAL)

1. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW SHAH SAID THERE WERE NOW 120,000
KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN AND THAT GOI HAD SPENT DOLS100 MILLION
CARING FOR THEM. SAME COST FIGURE USED BY FONMIN KHALATBARY
IN SEPTEMBER SPEECH TO UNGA. TAKING NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN
CAMPS NEAR DEZFUL IN NORTHERN KHUZISTAN (37,000 - REF C)
AND TOTAL REPORTED BY TABRIZ CONSULATE IN SEPTEMBER (80,000 -
REF E), WE ESTIMATE REFUGEES IN IRAN MUST TOTAL AT LEAST
130,000 TODAY. SOME 2 OR 3,000 RECENT ARRIVALS ARE NOT YET IN
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ORGANIZED CAMPS. IRANIANS BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE AS MANY AS

500,000 DISPLACED KURDS ON IRAQI SIDE OF BORDER.

2. GOI OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN ORGANIZAING REFUGEE CAMPS. THEY HAVE SHOWN PRIDE IN THEIR ABILITY TO HANDLE SITUATION WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH SHAH, GOI OFFICIALS, AND MEDIA HAVE COMMENTED ON LACK OF CONCERN BY UN ORGANIZATIONS. PARADOXICALLY, GOI SUCCESS IN HANDLING SITUATION HAS PERHAPS MADE EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE SEEM SUPERFLUOUS, BUT HUMANITARIAN GROUPS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO RESPOND TO THE NEED.

3. PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS IN SWEDEN, NORWAY AND FINLAND HAVE CONTRIBUTED DOLS125,000 WORTH OF DRUGS, MILK, FOOD AND BLANKETS WHICH HAVE ARRIVED IN NORTHWEST IRAN. OPERATIONS ARE CENTERED IN WEST AZERBAIJAN. AS THERE ARE FEWER REFUGEES THAT PROVINCE THAN IN KERMANSAHAN PROVINCE TO SOUTH, SUPPLIES MAY ALSO BE PASSING OVER THE BORDER TO KURDS IN IRAQ. TWO ICRC REPRESENTATIVES PLAN TO ARRIVE IN WEST AZERBAIJAN JAN. 14 TO SURVEY ASSISTANCE NEEDS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT FRENCH, DUTCH AND OTHER GROUPS MAY PROVIDE SUPPLIES AS WELL.

4. PRIVATE BRITISH ASSISTANCE TO KURDS (REF A) HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SENT TO IRAQ THROUGH IRAN. WE KNOW THAT BRITISH "SAVE THE CHILDREN'S FUND" MEDICAL TEAM, ABOUT WHICH IRAQIS PROTESTED (REF B), CAME TO IRAN FIRST, AND APPARENTLY THE ROUTE THEY TOOK IS WHAT UPSET IRAQI GOVERNMENT.

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